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UNIVERSITY TO HOST COURSE IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, RESPONSE

BETHESDA, Md. – The Uniformed Services University's Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine will hold the Combined Humanitarian Assistance Response Training Course May 7-11 at the National Naval Medical Center auditorium.

This is an introductory course that provides military members with basic information about complex emergencies and disasters in an international area. Using a combination of didactic lectures, small-group problem solving workshops and skills training, participants will discuss disaster epidemiology, health services in complex emergencies, civil-military operations and measures of effectiveness.

While this course is currently filled, other courses are planned for the future.

The Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance in Honolulu developed the course to prepare active duty and reserve military components to function in a multi-force theater of operations in coordination with civilian relief organizations. The Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute in San Antonio has a memorandum of understanding with the Center of Excellence to facilitate teaching the course at military installations worldwide.

A component of USU's Department of Military and Emergency Medicine, the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine is a world center for implementing advances in medicine and health in humanitarian and disaster relief. The center uses training, technology and best-management practices to improve military medicine's capabilities and readiness for humanitarian missions.

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Established by Congress in 1972, the Uniformed Services University has the nation's only fully accredited federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. It has provided the country with more than 3,000 outstanding military and public health physicians, scientists and health care practitioners. USU specializes in military medicine, which differs greatly from civilian medicine, and involves prevention, diagnosis and treatment by medical personnel who are integral to the military operations they support. Military medicine requires a solid background in tropical medicine and hygiene, parasitology and a full understanding of epidemiological methods and preventive medicine.